

* PALM BRANCH *

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S. E. SMITH, EDITOR.
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MISS S. E. SMITH,
282 Princess Street,
St. John, N. B.

FEBRUARY, 1898.



HERE is one fact that we all need to remember and that is that the Christians of to-day are responsible for the heathen of to-day! God has made it so. He has given us the "good news," not for ourselves alone, but that we may give it to those who have it not. Our Woman's Missionary Society recognizes this fact and so we establish schools, Bible Women, evangelistic and other work wherever possible, feeling it our special duty to care for the neglected women and children. If it be true, and how can we doubt it, that the mother, in every land, largely moulds the character of her child, boy as well as girl, must it not be equally true that she largely moulds the character of the age and nation?

Do we need any stronger incentive than that thought to lead us to work and pray daily for the women who are steeped in idolatry and degradation!

One would naturally think that a mother who had lived all her life under oppressive pagan laws which bear so heavily on her sex, giving her a childhood of misery and a womanhood of burden-bearing and slavery, would do her utmost to tenderly shield her child from the evils which had so desolated her own life. But all missionary history tells us to the contrary. True, a blind maternal instinct sometimes leads her to destroy her child in order to save it from a fate like her own, but as a rule it works the other way. The bitterness and hopelessness and cruelty of her own sad lot, act and re-act upon her child until in turn, she too becomes bitter, and hopeless, and cruel to others. It must be human nature, for we all know, that in the old slavery days no overseer was so cruel as the man who had once been a slave himself!

But, you say, the mother, even in heathen lands, has a pride and ambition in her boy! That is true; and perhaps from that very fact a nation is in still greater danger. While she neglects or ill-treats her daughter she is very careful to fill the mind of her son with all the idolatry and superstition which have gathered around her from her birth.

Let us civilize, educate and Christianize the mothers and the whole nation will be lifted up.

Archdeacon Phair, writing of work amongst the Sioux Indians of Canada, says: 'I know of no better object lesson on the value of missions than that to be learned by a visit to these people.' One is struck, first of all, with the stalwart and manly forms of these primitive people, so keen and sensitive in their ways, yet so difficult to rouse or excite. Sitting in the little hut beside a man of four-score years, one can easily see what missions have accomplished. The sanguinary warrior has exchanged his paint, and feathers, and thirst for blood, for a European costume and a large Bible in his own tongue. Listen to his estimate of this newly-found treasure: "It gave me the light; it has true words, from one side to the other. It has strength in it, too, for what it says it is able to do. It has changed men that nothing else could change. I like it for this."

Miss Lizzie Ritcey's story, "A little child shall lead them," and Miss Veazey's interesting communication will appear in March number. Thanks to these true friends for their help. We also received a kind letter from Mrs. Bellamy, (Herbie's mother) and in the same mail one from Mrs. Carcary, which we are glad to insert in our columns this month. Mrs. Bellamy says *it was Herbie's own idea to educate the boy in the Orphanage.*

Any subscriber not receiving PALM BRANCH will please communicate with the Editor. We would urge this request.

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF CHRIST.

Five minutes spent in the companionship of Christ every morning—aye, two minutes, if it is face to face and heart to heart—will change the whole day, will make every thought and feeling different, will enable you to do things for His sake that you would not have done for your own sake, or for any one's sake.—Drummond.